

January 21, 2004

LEESBURG INCREASES FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND SPRUCES UP NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

On July 28, 2003, the Leesburg City Commission directed city staff to honor the National Guard's written request from Adjutant General Douglas Burnett for financial support with utilities. The City of Leesburg has increased their financial contribution by 50 percent from \$3,900 to \$8,400 to the local National Guard Armory. In exchange for the use of the Armory, the city is providing a utility credit to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment in Downtown Leesburg.



In conjunction with financial assistance, the city's Department of Recreation and Parks has spent countless hours sprucing up the Armory in preparation of our Alpha Company heroes' homecoming. At this time, the soldiers' anticipated return to Leesburg is February 6, 2004 and the city has planned a Welcome Home Celebration at the Armory. Details of the celebration will be provided to the public as soon as a confirmed date and time of Alpha Company's arrival is received by city staff.

Aesthetic Armory exterior spruce ups include: relocating, respacing and painting of Jersey barriers as well as selecting and arranging for plants for landscaping in front of barriers. With the exception of the viburnum hedge, all other plant materials (with an estimated value of \$1,500) were graciously donated by Grass Roots Nursery.

The City has also donated plants at an approximate cost of \$400, as well as recycled mulch and a temporary irrigation system to get the plants established.

All of these aesthetic improvements are complimented by the recent relocation of the Freedom War Memorial, which was established in 1976 as a remembrance to celebrate freedom and has been located at Venetian Gardens. A rededication of the Freedom Memorial, now located at Fountain Lake Park, beside the Armory for easier public access, is slated for Memorial Day and will be conducted by the local Lions Club chapter.



The Freedom War Memorial also has a time capsule locator marker to be opened in the year 2076. The time capsule's contents hold a variety of items representing the years 1915-1976.

###

.
.